Operationalisation of ZOWKHATARIRHI customs gate

2323. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from Moreh (Manipur) there is another customs gate namely 'ZOWKHATARIRHI' on the Indo-Myanmar Border;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said gate is not operational for border trade; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to make the said gate operational and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes. Apart from Moreh Land Customs Station in Manipur, there is another Land Customs Station (not customs gate) named Zokhawthar Land Customs Station in Mizoram on the Indo-Myanmar border.

(b) and (c) The Land Customs Station at Zokhawthar was inaugurated on 30th January 2004. However, till date there has been no export/import through this trading point as the Indo-Myanmar Trade Agreement limits barter trade between the two nations to agricultural and minor forest produces only and Zokhawthar is not a declared entry point for import of Plants and Plant products as per Schedule I, II and III of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India effective from 1st January, 2004.

Steps to provide remunerative price to silk producers

2324. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of widespread discontentment and disappointment amongst country's silk producers as they are unable to get appropriate price to their produce due to large scale imports, both legal and illegal of silk from countries like China and Thailand; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure remunerative prices to the producers of silk in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA). (a) Yes, Sir.